



## Editorial

With this issue *Information and Control* begins its tenth year of publication. It seems appropriate to take this occasion to review briefly the achievements, goals, and interests of the journal. From the purely physical point of view, *Information and Control* has grown. During the first seven years of publication, it appeared as a quarterly and for two years thereafter, it was published bimonthly. In this time the number of papers that the Editors found suitable for publication has increased substantially. As a consequence, the Publishers have again agreed to increase the frequency of publication. With this issue the Journal will appear monthly.

Physical growth is a rather biased measure of a journal's achievements. In like manner, an Editor's judgment of the quality of a journal is necessarily biased by his personal involvement. Nevertheless, this Editor feels justified in believing that during the last nine years highly significant and indeed seminal papers in a number of areas have appeared in our pages. These areas have included the theory of formal languages, automata theory, communication theory, the theory of optimal control, and the theory of physical information.

In the course of reviewing the current status of the Journal, I had occasion to look at the statement of editorial policy that appeared in the first issue. Now nine years later, I can do no better than to reprint the first two paragraphs of that statement. It is still an accurate description of goals and policies of *Information and Control*.

"The theories of communication, computers, and automatic control were initially of interest primarily to mathematicians and engineers. The papers relating to these fields have therefore appeared in a wide variety of engineering and mathematical journals. Some of the results of this work have been applied by scholars in such areas as linguistics, psychology, statistics, physics, genetics, neurophysiology, and even philosophy. Such applications have led to results which are of interest in their own areas, but which in some instances have also suggested models and raised questions of fundamental interest to the theories

being applied. Unfortunately, they appear in many entirely different sets of professional publications, which few readers of engineering and mathematical journals see.

It is the purpose of this new journal, 'Information and Control,' to publish papers which make significant contributions to the theories of communication, computers, and automatic control, and also papers which present experimental evidence or theoretical results bearing on the use of ideas from such theories in any field to which the ideas are relevant. Papers will be published, for example, on such topics as:

Theory of communication

Theory of automata

Theory of automatic control systems

Description and analysis of language and other natural information sources

Informational aspects of physics and of the theory of observation and measurement

Organization, processing and retrieval of data"

The reader will have noted that the cover format has been modified and that the Editorial Board has been substantially changed. It is in the nature of the rapidly developing disciplines that the Journal is designed to serve, that advisors' and editors' interests change; new participants enter these fields and their ideas and advice must be sought. *Information and Control* has always depended upon the Editorial Board and has leaned heavily on some. The current Editor owes them a significant debt of gratitude.

The three editors who have been engaged in editing *Information and Control* from its inception have decided to relinquish the responsibility they have held for nine years. It was Professor Brillouin who first conceived of a journal to deal with problems of information and control in the broadest context. Together with Professor Cherry and Professor Elias, the concept of the Journal was developed and launched. The reader can judge for himself whether *Information and Control* has filled the role the Founding Editors had chosen for it. This Editor and the Publishers take pride in these years of association and thank them for their many contributions to the journal.

Under the circumstances, we shall have to depend even more heavily than in the past on the Editorial Board. The addresses of members of the Editorial Board are published so that prospective contributors may

submit manuscripts through a member of the Editorial Board, if they so desire.

Finally, it seems worthwhile to reprint the last paragraph of the original "Statement of Editorial Policy."

"Any statement of policy for a new enterprise is at best an educated guess, and this one is no exception. It is, of course, subject to gradual change without formal notice, as the journal takes shape under the diverse pressures of authors, editorial board, editors, and readers. The editors will welcome your addition to the pressure."

That statement is still our policy.

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